

coming to an end, but our students have a lifetime of learning ahead and they need our help.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KINGSTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAYNE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

COMPILATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG LETTERS FOR HOUSE FLOOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, beginning on April 12, for the 20 weeks that the House has been in session, I have read 22 letters from MI seniors who desperately need help with their high prescription drug costs.

In that time, I have been pushing consistently for prescription drug coverage under Medicare. Our time is nearly up, and we still have not passed this important legislation.

Looking back through the 22 letters that I have read on the House floor, I am reminded of why it is so important to modernize Medicare and provide prescription drug coverage for seniors.

From Shirley and Raymond Radcliff, Escanaba: "We are a couple on a fixed income and cannot afford these drugs that continue to escalate. Our income cannot keep up with it. Fifteen pills of [one medication] are \$41.99. I cannot afford that and discontinued taking them . . . A two month supply of [another medication] is \$82.53. I no longer take those either, because I cannot afford them."

From Concetta Lisuzzo, Dearborn: "If you can bring these prices [down] I will be very grateful to you. It seems like a visit to the doctor adds one more prescription. Please help us, so we won't have to make choices between food or prescriptions."

From Annabelle Lewis, Alma: "I stopped taking [my medication] in January 1999, having cut pills in half."

From Julia Kanopsky, Livonia: "I just wish the government would take an interest in problems like this. To curb high prices, I eat two meals a day, and any more hike in health cost, I'll have to go on one meal."

From Dolores Graycheck, Indian River: "Each month we get deeper in debt and soon we, like a lot of other people, won't have any-

thing left . . . I think it's a shame that our supposed Golden Years aren't Golden after all."

From Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Crook, Hillsdale: "We can't go [anywhere] or do anything because it takes all our income for the cost to live. Some weeks, I wonder how long we can go on. It keeps going up in cost and we cannot live."

From Harriett Simmons, Detroit: "We are senior citizens today but yesterday we were active, taxpaying citizens. Don't mistreat us now. We need protection."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

USS LST MEMORIAL, INC.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this is a story about a World War II LST that is coming home. She is one of the last of her kind. She has seen a lot in her time. And now, at about 65 years of age, she is about to take on one of the biggest challenges of her entire lifetime.

She was there on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Time and again, the gallant LST 325 returned to Omaha Beach, through murderous gunfire, to unload more men and more equipment to replenish the high casualty and death rate being suffered. She was repaired, and she survived.

At the close of World War II, she was transferred for service to Greece and her name was changed to Syros. After years of good service to Greece, Syros was no longer needed.

About 3 years ago, my constituent, James Edwards of Canton, Texas, contacted me with a request for assistance in the retransfer of the LST from Greece to the United States LST Ship Memorial, Inc., a nonprofit organization whose membership consists of former Navy service members, mostly World War II type guys. I understand the feelings, as I fall in that category, too.

The members of this organization had a dream and a goal that never died. They planned, dreamed, and worked for years to own their own LST. They had a vision of using the ship for educational purposes.

□ 1915

They wanted young people to tour the ship and experience the value of

such a trip in helping to win the war and to honor the work it had done. They wanted young Navy midshipmen to train on her, and they wanted Americans of all ages to climb aboard and visit her and even sail on her. Therefore, the LST had to be a movable museum, one that could sail around the waters of the United States and even up the rivers, docking at cities along the way to welcome visitors aboard. That was a tall order, but a worthy cause.

After learning of this noble plan, I introduced legislation to secure the transfer from Greece, and I want to thank my colleagues who supported this effort and helped pass it. I think it should be noticed that the legislation never required one Federal dollar. Unique in itself, the Memorial Association has been raising money and saving funds for years, waiting for that day when they could bring a "live" LST back home.

Mr. Speaker, the good news is that the veterans have been in Greece for 3 months, at their own expense, renovating the ship in preparation for the journey back home. She is equipped with the newest radar, repainted and made safe and livable for this historic trip. LST 325 will be sailed home by these veterans, most of whom are veterans of World War II and many of them who are retired. The average age is reported to be at 74 years young.

Recently, the men took LST 325 for a 5-hour shakedown. They cruised around Crete, and she performed perfectly. The report came back to me that the veterans said how wonderful to feel the salt air in their faces again, and I heard that there were some tears of joy mixed in. These men are being cheered and supported by current Navy personnel stationed in Crete and by members of the Hellenic Navy. I am pleased to tell my colleagues that our Ambassador to Greece, Nicholas Burns, and officials of our American Embassy, have done much to make all of this good news possible, and I am sure my colleagues will join me in being appreciative of their assistance.

Finally, having planned very well and believing they had all loose ends tied up, these veterans discovered that their source for food was not going to be available. Neither was their source for fuel. That was the bad news. How were they going to get the LST back home?

This story is fraught with heroes. This epic, this ongoing saga of 40 courageous World War II veterans giving of their hearts to bring the LST 325 home, found another big heart and that is the heart of Mike McAdams, a vice president of British Petroleum, a fellow Texan and former staffer of mine, who went to other officials of BP with the story of this little band of veterans, so full of bravery and determination and so in need of fuel.

Mr. Speaker, the good news is that British Petroleum has donated over 40,000 gallons of fuel to the men and the